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BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES

The Conquest of the Old Southwest. The romantic story of the early pioneers into Virginia, the Carolinas, Tennessee, and Kentucky, 1740-1790. By Archibald Henderson, Ph. D., D. C. L. (New York; The Century Company, 1920. Pp. xxiv, 395. \$2.50.)

In this little book Mr. Henderson has put all students of the early west under deep obligation to him. He has made definite addition to our stock of information about the subject; he has exhibited his material in a new perspective; and he has told the story with skill and charm.

Beginning with the spread of the Scotch-Irish and German pioneers along the Piedmont from Pennsylvania to South Carolina in the early eighteenth century, he traces in less than one hundred pages the development of the southern border, with special attention to western North Carolina, through the crushing of the Cherokee power in the wars of 1758-1761 and the expulsion of the French from the great hinterland. These important events opened wide the gateway through which went the "long hunters" into Kentucky and Tennessee. As keen on the trail of profitable speculation as the backwoods hunter after his quarry was a group of men of large vision—colonizers, land speculators, or "land pyrates"—planning for large scale acquisitions in the new regions. Conspicuous among these, and the central figure in this book, was Richard Henderson, by birth a Virginian but now a lawyer and judge in western North Carolina. Having become interested in the possibilities of the western country, Henderson sent the noted young hunter, Daniel Boone, who had fallen into his debt, on long exploring trips across the mountains. Meanwhile the wrongs of the poor settlers in the back country of North Carolina had given rise to the "regulation," and when this was suppressed in 1771 many of these borderers moved across the mountains into the Holston and Watauga districts on lands acquired from the Cherokees. These settlements became a base for further expansion. Lord Dunmore's War of 1774 against the Shawnees, deliberately provoked by Virginia's governor, cleared the way into Kentucky. The British government had sought by the royal proclamation of 1763 to bar settlers and land speculators out of the Indian country;

but the legal opinions of Lord Camden and Charles Yorke that titles obtained directly from the Indian tribes were valid had encouraged attempts to circumvent the government. Richard Henderson was one of several who took advantage of this opinion. In the spring of 1775 he and his associates obtained from the Cherokees large grants of land in Kentucky and along the Cumberland River.

Here we reach the climax of the story. In 1775 was established in Kentucky the colony of Transylvania under the active leadership of Henderson himself. Transylvania was a proprietary colony, with a liberal form of government, and the proprietors soon encountered the same sort of dissatisfaction and resistance here as had their prototypes east of the mountains. Virginia, too, opposed the claims of the North Carolinians, and George Rogers Clark headed the opposition in Kentucky which resulted in the loss of Henderson's claims. The author claims that notwithstanding this defeat, Henderson's work was of the highest importance to America, because this colony of Transylvania, established just at the outbreak of the Revolution, served as a base of resistance to and operations against the British in the northwest and was the means of saving that vast region to the United States. Henderson now turned to his other project—a colony on the Cumberland. This, undertaken in 1779-1780 under the immediate leadership of James Robertson, resulted in the founding of Nashville; but here too the company was unable to make good its claim which was set aside three years later by the state of North Carolina. At this point the main narrative ends; but there follow three chapters—"King's Mountain," "The State of Franklin," and "The Lure of Spain"—which carry forward the story of Tennessee to the admission of that state into the Union in 1796.

This imperfect summary does not, of course, do justice to Mr. Henderson's excellent narrative; but it may suggest one criticism, namely, that the main title is too large for the book. Piedmont Virginia is not quite ignored, and the frontier of South Carolina gets some attention—the account of the Cherokee war is very welcome—but on the whole both of these regions receive slight treatment. Practically nothing is said of the intense activities of other land companies and traders who moved by the upper routes into Kentucky, although Alvord's work in this field was available; and absolutely nothing is said of the very interesting

and very important developments going on in the same period on the Georgia frontier and in West Florida. Certain other questions may well be raised. Does not the account of the controversy between the Transylvania Company and Virginia fail to present adequately the side of Virginia? Does not Mr. Henderson accept too readily the arguments for the validity of the land titles granted by the Cherokees to the proprietors of the Transylvania Company? (See his note, no. 137.) Far be it from this reviewer to venture an opinion on a point of law, but as yet he remains unconvinced. Finally it must be said that the critical student is likely to see in Richard Henderson something less than the sublimely disinterested heroic figure in which he appears to our author, something more nearly resembling a type of "empire builder" not uncommon on all parts of our American frontier—a man of vision, energy, and courage with an eye always to the main chance.

But these faults lie mostly on the surface. The fact remains that Mr. Henderson has written a good book in a very interesting way on an important subject. The volume is typographically attractive and contains a good map and a useful index.

CHAS. W. RAMSDELL.

Memoirs of Mary A. Maverick, arranged by Mary A. Maverick and her son, George Madison Maverick. Edited by Rena Maverick Green. San Antonio, 1921. 8vo., pp. 136. Illustrated.

Ever since the publication of a few pages from the diary of Mrs. Maverick, in Corner's *San Antonio de Bexar*, readers of Texas annals have desired a wider view of the life of the writer. Hence this little volume will meet with a warm welcome.

On the first page is the following dedication by the author:

"There are twelve of us in all, my husband and I, and ten children—six living and six in the Spirit-land.

"To the memory of the dear ones who have gone before, I dedicate these reminiscences of by-gone years."

The preface says, "This little book is written for my children," and gives a careful statement of its sources.

A brief genealogical record of her own family and that of her husband, Samuel A. Maverick, comprises the first chapter, followed by a sketch of their early married life in Alabama.